

**Patent Claims:**

1. Method for the indirect tire pressure monitoring,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d by the steps of:
  - Learning of test variables (DIAG, SIDE, AXLE), which describe the rotational movements of the wheels,
  - Determining of rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta$ DIAG,  $\Delta$ SIDE,  $\Delta$ AXLE) from actually determined test variables and the learnt test variables,
  - Learning of at least one torsion natural frequency  $f_p$  for at least one tire from the oscillation behavior of the individual tires,
  - Determining at least one shift of the torsion natural frequency  $\Delta f_p$  from at least one actually determined torsion natural frequency and from the at least one learnt torsion natural frequency, and
  - combining the rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta$ DIAG,  $\Delta$ SIDE,  $\Delta$ AXLE) with the at least one shift of the torsion natural frequency  $f_p$  in a joint warning strategy for detecting and warning of tire inflation pressure loss.
2. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the learning operation is not started until an automatically or manually generated signal (reset).
3. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the learning operation is executed while the tires heat up and/or cool down.

4. Method as claimed in claim 1 or 3,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the learning operation is executed in several different speed intervals, and/or wheel torque intervals, and/or lateral acceleration intervals.
5. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that initially only the rough position of the torsion natural frequency  $f_p$  is determined in a wide frequency range, in particular in the frequency range of roughly 20 hertz to roughly 60 hertz, with a coarse frequency resolution, in particular with a frequency resolution of 1 hertz approximately.
6. Method as claimed in claim 5,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that subsequently a range is defined around the approximate position of the torsion natural frequency  $f_p$ , in which the precise position of the torsion natural frequency  $f_p$  is determined with a fine frequency resolution, in particular with a frequency resolution of 0.5 hertz approximately.
7. Method as claimed in claim 3,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the complete heating and/or cooling of the tires is detected from a uniform increase or reduction of the torsion natural frequencies  $f_p$  of all tires to an almost constant final value.
8. Method as claimed in claim 3,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the change of the outside or ambient temperature is evaluated with respect to the heating/cooling of the tires.

9. Method as claimed in claim 3,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a rain sensor is  
evaluated with respect to the heating/cooling of the  
tires.
10. Method as claimed in claim 3,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that the length of a  
vehicle immobilization time allows obtaining information  
about the condition (cold or warm) of the tires.
11. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a warning regarding  
tire inflation pressure loss is issued when at least one  
rolling circumference difference ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ) or  
at least one shift of the torsion natural frequency  $\Delta f_p$   
exceeds a previously fixed coarse threshold.
12. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a warning regarding  
tire inflation pressure loss is issued when the shifts of  
the torsion natural frequencies  $\Delta f_p$  of all wheels exceed  
a previously fixed fine threshold.
13. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a warning regarding  
tire inflation pressure loss is issued when at least one  
rolling circumference difference ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ) as  
well as at least one shift of the torsion natural  
frequency  $\Delta f_p$  exceeds previously fixed fine thresholds.

14. Method as claimed in claim 13,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that a warning regarding tire inflation pressure loss is issued only when the correlation between the rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ) and the shifts of the torsion natural frequencies  $\Delta f_p$  exceeds a predetermined limit value which indicates tire inflation pressure loss with an appropriate likelihood.
15. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that in the joint warning strategy, the (warning) thresholds of the rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ) for warning of tire inflation pressure loss are adapted depending on the shift of the torsion natural frequency  $\Delta f_p$ .
16. Method as claimed in claim 1,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that in the joint warning strategy, the (warning) thresholds of the rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ) for warning of tire inflation pressure loss are adapted depending on the shift of the torsion natural frequency  $\Delta f_p$  and on the correlation between the rolling circumference differences ( $\Delta\text{DIAG}$ ,  $\Delta\text{SIDE}$ ,  $\Delta\text{AXLE}$ ), and on the shifts of the torsion natural frequency  $\Delta f_p$ .
17. Computer program product,  
c h a r a c t e r i z e d in that this product defines an algorithm comprising a method as claimed in at least any one of claims 1 to 16.